

REMARKS

Claims 3-16, and 20-22 are original. Claims 1 and 17-18 are amended. Claims 2, 19 and 23-34 are cancelled. New claims 35-63 is added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-18, 20-22, and 35-63 are pending in the application.

1. Rejection of Claim 18 Under the Second Paragraph of 35 USC §112

Claim 18 stands rejected under the Second Paragraph of 35 USC §112 for being indefinite. The Examiner has suggested that this may be the result of a typographical error. Applicant has amended claim 18 to correct this error.

2. New Claims 37 and 52

Page 11, paragraph 12 of the Office Action provides that “the prior art does not disclose that one or more of the waveguides end at a facet that is substantially vertical relative to the base each facet being angled at less than ninety degrees relative to the direction of propagation of the light signal traveling along the waveguide at the facet.” In Response, new claim 37 has been added with this limitation in combination with the limitations of claim 1. Additionally, claim 52 has been added with this limitation in combination with the limitations of claim 18.

3. New Claims 60 and 62

Page 11, paragraph 12 of the Office Action provides that “the prior art does not disclose that the thickness of the waveguides is more than 1.4 times the width of the waveguides. In Response, new claim 60 has been added with this limitation in combination with the limitations of claim 1. Additionally, claim 62 has been added with this limitation in combination with the limitations of claim 18.

4. Rejection of Independent Claims 1 and 18 under 35 USC §103(a).

Independent Claims 1 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,430,302 (Fidric) and U.S. Patent Number 6,430,302 (Daniel).

Page 11, paragraph 12 of the Office Action provides that “the prior art does not disclose that the expansion tapers do not taper vertically.” In response, claim 18 has been amended to

specify that “the expansion tapers do not taper vertically.” Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to specify that “the contraction tapers do not taper vertically.” Applicant notes that neither Fidric nor Daniels teaches or suggests contraction tapers that do not taper vertically.

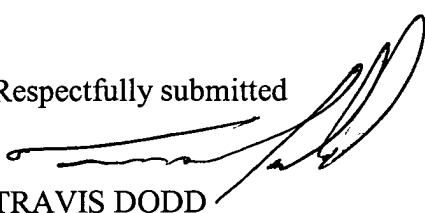
5. Claims 3-17, 20-22, and 35-36, 38-51, 53-59, 61, 63

Each of claim 3-17, 20-22, and 35-36, 38-51, 53-59, 61, 63 depends from Independent Claim 1, 18, 37, 52, 60, or 62. Since the Independent Claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, claim 3-17, 20-22, and 35-36, 38-51, 53-59, 61, 63 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the Claim amendments presented above, Applicants believe they are entitled to a letters patent. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted


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